

C L A I M S

1. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-service system in which cookies are exchanged between a server computer (17) and a client computer (11) via the Internet (16),
5 characterised in that,
the return of a cookie, stored in a client computer (11), to the server computer (17) which placed the
10 cookie, is effected in dependence upon a preceding check of the cookie.
2. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system in accordance with claim 1,
15 characterised in that,
the administration and checking of cookies stored and to be stored on a client computer is effected independently of a browser (12) of the client computer which establishes an Internet connection to
20 a server computer.
3. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system in accordance with claim 1 or 2,
25 characterised in that,
the checking of a cookie to be returned is effected in dependence upon of configurable evaluation criteria in the client computer.
4. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system in accordance with any of claims
30 1 to 3,
characterised in that,
the result of the checking of a cookie is determined in dependence upon an evaluation of the server computer address which is attributed to this cookie as desired or undesired, directly called-up addresses
35 being regarded as desired, indirectly called-up

addresses as undesired.

5. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system in accordance with any of claims
5 1 or 4,
characterised in that,
the format (20) of a cookie stored in a client computer includes a first data set (21) having data fields for holding the original data of the cookie
10 and a second data set (22) having data fields for holding additional data which serve for the checking of the cookie.
- 15 6. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system according to claim 5,
characterised in that,
the second data set (22) includes a first data sub-set (23) having data fields for holding the date of creation of the cookie and/or the designation of the cookie and/or the description of the cookie and/or
20 classifying keywords.
- 25 7. Method of administrating cookies in an Internet client-server system according to claim 5 or 6,
characterised in that,
there is added to the second data set (22) of a cookie valid for a request made by a browser (12) a further data sub-set (24) having information for the classification and protocolling of the request.
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- 35 8. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system according to claim 7,
characterised in that,
the added further sub-set (24) includes at least the name and the Internet address of the directly called-up HTML page on which the object was located which initiated the request, and the time point of the

call.

9. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system according to any of claims 5 to 5, characterised in that, each cookie or a collection of a plurality of cookies are stored in separate files in the client computer (11).

10 10. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system according to claim 9, characterised in that, these files are transferred to and from at least one further computer, so that a client computer (11) has 15 available a plurality of different cookies valid for one server computer address.

11. Method of administering cookies in an Internet 20 client-server system according to claim 10, characterised in that, different client computers (11) store, search and call-up cookies in data banks from different Internet server computers (19), so that on one client computer 25 (11) there are available a plurality of different cookies valid for one server computer address.

12. Method of administering cookies in an Internet client-server system according to claim 10 or 11, 30 characterised in that, the selection of a cookie to be sent back is effected randomly from amongst a plurality of cookies valid for this request.

35 13. Computer software product for administering cookies in an Internet client-server system, in which cookies are exchanged between a server computer (17) and a

client computer (11) via the Internet (16),
characterised in that,
it allows a return of a cookie stored in a client
computer (11) to the server computer (17) which
5 placed the cookie, in dependence upon a preceding
check of the cookie.

14. Computer software product for administering cookies
in an Internet client-server system according to
10 claim 13,
characterised in that,
it administers and checks cookies stored and to be
stored on a client computer independently of a
15 browser (12) of the client computer which establishes
an Internet connection to a server computer.

15. Computer software product for administering cookies
in an Internet client-server system according to
claim 13 or 14,
20 characterised in that,
it undertakes a check of the cookie to be sent back
in dependence upon configurable evaluation criteria
in the client computer.

25 16. Computer software product for administering cookies
in an Internet client-server system according to any
of claims 13 to 15,
characterised in that,
it determines the result of the checking of a cookie
30 in dependence upon an evaluation of the server
computer address which is attributed to this cookie
as desired or undesired, directly called-up addresses
being regarded as desired, indirectly called-up
addresses as undesired.

35 17. Computer software product for administering cookies
in an Internet client-server system according to any

of claims 13 to 16,
characterised in that,
it stores a cookie in a client computer in a format
(10) comprising a first data set (21) having data
5 fields for holding the original data of the cookie
and a second data set (22) having data fields for
holding additional data which serves for the checking
of the cookie.

10 18. Computer software product for administering cookies
in an Internet client-server system according to
claim 17,
characterised in that,
it makes available in the second data set (22) a
15 first data sub-set (23) having data fields for
holding the creation date of the cookie and/or the
designation of the cookie and/or the description of
the cookie and/or classifying keywords.

20 19. Computer software product for administering cookies
in an Internet client-server system according to
claim 17 or 18,
characterised in that,
it adds to the second data set (22) of a cookie valid
25 for a request made by a browser (12) a further data
sub-set (24) having information for classification
and protocolling of the request.

30 20. Computer software product for administering cookies
in an Internet client-server system according to
claim 19,
characterised in that,
it records in the added further data sub-set (24) at
35 least the name and the Internet address of the HTML
page directly called-up, on which page the object was
found which initiated the request, and the time point
of the call.

21. Computer software product for administering cookies in an Internet client-server system according to any of claims 17 to 20,
5 characterised in that,
it stores each cookie or a collection of a plurality of cookies in separate files in the client computer (11).

10 22. Computer software product for administering cookies in an Internet client-server system according to claim 21,
characterised in that,
it transfers these files to and from other computers,
15 so that a client computer (11) has available a plurality of different cookies valid for one server computer address.

20 23. Computer software product for administering cookies in an Internet client-server system according to claim 21 or 22,
characterised in that,
it selects a cookie to be send back randomly from a plurality of cookies valid for this request.

25 24. Computer software product for administering cookies on a cookie server (19) of an Internet client-server system,
characterised in that,
it stores cookies, of the formats (20) according to any of claims 18 to 20, in a data bank of the cookie server, and
it makes is possible for computer software products according to claim 22 or 23 to feed arbitrary cookies into this data bank, to search for cookies in this data bank and to call up cookies out of this data bank.

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25. Cookie server for administering cookies in an Internet client-server system, characterised in that,

5 it has a data bank for storing cookies of the formats (20) according to any of claims 18 to 20, and it makes it possible for computer software products according to claim 22 or 23 to feed arbitrary cookies into this data bank, to search for cookies in this 10 data bank and to call up cookies out of this data bank.

15 26. Client computer (11) for an Internet client-server system, having an interface device for data exchange via the Internet, at least one memory device (13) for storing data objects and an administration means for administering cookies, wherein the administration means (14) sends a cookie stored 20 in the memory device (13) back to the server computer (17) which placed the cookie, in dependence upon a preceding check.

25 27. Client computer (11) according to claim 26, characterised in that, the administration means (14) administers the cookies stored or to be stored in the memory device (13) independently of a browser (12) of the client computer which establishes an Internet connection to a server computer.

30 28. Client computer (11) according to claim 26 or 27, characterised in that, the administration means (14) undertakes a checking 35 of the cookie in dependence upon configurable evaluation criteria in the client computer.

29. Client computer (11) according to any of claims 26 to

28,
characterised in that,
the administration means (14) determines the result
of the checking of the cookie in dependence upon an
5 evaluation of the server computer address
attributable to this cookie as desired or undesired,
directly called-up addresses being regarded as
desired, indirectly called-up addresses as undesired.

10 30. Client computer (11) according to any of claims 26 to
29,
characterised in that,
the administration means (14) makes available a
format (20) for storing a cookie in the memory device
15 (13) having a first data set (21) with data fields
for holding the original data of the cookie and a
second data set (22) with data fields for holding
additional data which serves for the checking of the
cookie.

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31. Client computer (11) according to claim 30,
characterised in that,
the administration means (14) make available in the
second data set (22) a first data sub-set (23) having
25 data fields for holding the creation date of the
cookie and/or the designation of the cookie and/or
the description of the cookie and/or classifying
keywords.

30 32. Client computer (11) according to claim 30 or 31,
characterised in that,
the administration means (14) adds to the second data
set (22) of a cookie valid for a request made by a
browser (12) a further data sub-set (24) with
35 information for classifying and protocolling the
request.

33. Client computer (11) according to claim 32,
characterised in that,
the further data sub-set (24) added by the
administration means (14) contain at least the name
5 and the Internet address of the directly called-up
HTML page on which the object was located which
initiated the request, and the time point of the
call.

10 34. Client computer (11) according to any of claims 30 to
33,
characterised in that,
the administration means (14) stores each cookie or a
15 collection of a plurality of cookies in separate
files in the memory device.

35. Client computer (11) according to claim 34,
characterised in that,
the administration means (14) transfer the files to
20 at least one further computer and receives these
files from at least one further computer, so that the
client computer (11) has available a plurality of
different cookies valid for one server computer
address.

25 36. Client computer (11) according to claim 35,
characterised in that,
by means of the administration means (14) on
30 different client computers (11) cookies from these
client computers (11) can be stored in data banks of
different Internet server computers (19) and therein
can be searched for and called-up.

35 37. Client computer (11) according to claim 35 or 36,
characterised in that,
the administration means (14) randomly selects a
cookie to be sent back from a collection of a

plurality of cookies valid for this request.